FY 2009 Capital Budget TPS Report 47364

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development** 

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Grant Recipient: Alaska Veterans Memorial Federal Tax ID: 03-0382080

**Project Title:** 

# Alaska Veterans Memorial - Museum Feasibility Study

State Funding Requested: \$ 25,000 House District: 17 - I

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:** 

Funding for feasibility study and strategic plan and business plan by the Foraker Group.

**Funding Plan:** 

Total Cost of Project: \$25,000

<u>Funding Secured</u> <u>Other Pending Requests</u> <u>Anticipated Future Need</u>

Amount FY Amount FY Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

## **Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

This project would be to study the feasibility and develop a strategic and business plan for the Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum. These studies are needed in order for the museum to apply for various grants from foundations and other philanthropic organizations.

## **Project Timeline:**

Foraker group will begin study when monies are received.

## **Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum

## **Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Col. Suellyn Novak, USAF-Retired, President

Phone Number: 907-694-2866

Address: P.O. Box 773364 Eagle River, AK 99577

Email: missfiresioux2@yahoo.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes X No

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Contact Name: Renee Limoge Contact Number: 465-3768 For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

3:56 PM 4/29/2008



February 29, 2008

"They Shall Not Be Forgotten"

The Honorable Anna Fairclough State Capital Room 411 Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Fairclough:

You know that the U.S. Army built what became the Alaska Highway, but did you know that the last battle of the Civil War was fought in Alaskan waters? Or that the Army, Navy and Revenue Service in succession governed the new U.S. possession for several years?

All branches of the military have made more contributions to Alaska's development and its defense than to any of the fifty states. The impact of the military has been felt in all areas of the state from before the purchase in 1867 until the present time.

We are pleased to acquaint you with the Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum, whose focus is on honoring our nation's veterans and insuring that because of the sacrifices they have made to defend America's freedom, "They Shall Not Be Forgotten."

#### Our Mission:

- Create a Museum Honoring Veterans
- Educate the Public About the Military
- Support Active Duty and Veterans

AVMM was founded on Veterans Day of 2001 and has collected dozens of oral histories of veterans from around Alaska, including members of the famed Alaska Scouts from World War II. We also have received a number of artifacts representative of America's conflicts, particularly those reflecting the military's. The need is critical for a building to house those exhibits and make them available to the public for review and research.

To advance our effort to provide a museum representing all of Alaska and accessible to all Alaskans, as well as visitors to our State, certain studies must be completed to facilitate our application for grants from various foundations and other philanthropic organizations. We do not have the in-house expertise to

prepare those studies. We have contacted the Foraker Group for assistance and they indicated a cost of \$25,000 for this work.

The Museum Board of Directors has approved a business proposal from the Foraker Group to study and create a strategic study and business plan, at a cost of approximately \$25,000. This money will effectively guide this worthwhile effort to honor our Alaska veterans and help assure that "They Shall Not Be Forgotten."

We seek your support of this effort through a grant of state funds covering the \$25,000 cost of the business plan. We urge you to add this item to the budget being prepared for the coming year.

Our Employer Identification Number is 03-0382080, our point of contact is Suellyn Wright Novak, USAF, Retired and our number is (907) 696-4904. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours truly,

Suellyn Wright Novak, Col, USAF, Ret.

President



April 12, 2007

The Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum is planned with a focus on honoring our nation's veterans and insuring that because of the sacrifices they made to defend America's freedom; "They Shall Not Be Forgotten." As President Calvin Goolidge said, "A nation which forgets its defenders, will itself be forgotten."

The Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum (AVMM) has a three-fold mission: 1) create a museum to honor Alaska's veterans; 2) educate the public on persons, operations and sacrifices made; 3) support our active duty, Guard, Reserve and veterans. We have made great strides in capturing our veterans' oral histories (having done 29 to date, with 20 more in the production line) and in receiving artifacts donated to the AVMM by the veterans we have interviewed. AVMM was featured in both local newspapers when we discovered an Alaska Scout from WW II had never received the awards he was due. We worked through Senator Murkowski's office and presented his awards in his hospital room five days before he passed away. We support our active duty, Guard and Reserve troops through the "Fan Mail for the Troops" program and have consistently ranked number one in the state (and as high as #8 in the nation).

In order to advance our museum effort, we need to have certain studies completed before we can apply for grants from foundations and other philanthropic organizations. As AVMM does not have the in-house capability to do this, we contacted the Foraker Group which educates non-profits and does these studies. We will need a strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities (SWOT) analysis, a feasibility study, a strategic plan and a business case analysis done. Foraker has estimated a cost of \$25,000 for all these studies.

The Museum Board of Directors has approved a business proposal from the 'Foraker Group' to study and create a strategic study and business plan, at a cost of approximately \$25K. This money will determine the, who, what, why, and where, to effectively, guide and direct this worthwhile effort, to honor our Alaska veterans, through out, our proud State of Alaska.

Request a grant of \$25,000 for these business studies so that AVMM can move forward to ensure our veterans "shall not be forgotten."

Roger J. Wortman Sr

President

Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum